

Bulletin



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Office of Compliance
Congressional Accountability

The Office of Compliance Bulletin is a publication designed to provide timely information to employees of the Legislative Branch on current issues of concern.

Check Out Our New Look!

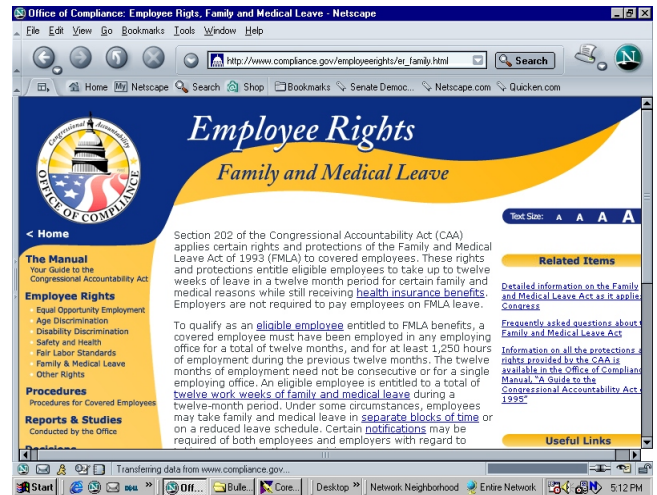
The Office of Compliance has just launched a newly redesigned web site, www.compliance.gov, and we invite you to take a look. Our improvements have made our site a more convenient resource for information on the Congressional Accountability Act (CAA), the Office of Compliance, and the rights and protections of Legislative Branch employees.

Compliance.gov now has a number of new features designed to speed access to important information that you may need about the CAA and services provided by the Office of Compliance. The site now includes short summaries in an easy to understand format to help guide the reader through all the rights and protections of the CAA, with detailed information and answers to frequently asked

office access. (A password, provided by the Office, is required to access forms.)

Also included on our new site:

- The *Office of Compliance Guide to the Congressional Accountability*



questions only a mouse click away. We have also included a short primer on the Office of Compliance complaints process and procedures

for covered employees. In addition, the site now has a complete library of our publications and forms for convenient home or

office access. (A password, provided by the Office, is required to access forms.)

- A quick-reference flow chart of the complaint procedure.
- Emergency evacuation plan templates for offices.
- Studies and Reports published by the Office of Compliance.
- Decisions by the Board of Directors.
- Contact information for the Office of Compliance.

Attention System Administrators:
Section 508 and Disabled Access to
Electronic Information

In 1998 Congress amended the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794d) to ensure that all Federal agencies make their electronic information accessible to people with disabilities. Known as Section 508, this amendment requires that the full range of electronic and information technologies (such as software, computing, presentation, and storage mediums, to name a few) give disabled employees and members of the public access to information in a way that is comparable to access available to others.

Web sites are an easily accessible form of electronic information for many with disabilities, and are included under Section 508 requirements. Web site compliance with Section 508 has the greatest effect on those with visual impairments, ensuring the information on screen can be read by products like screen readers and turned into audible information or data for refreshable Braille displays. Compliance with Section 508 does not prohibit graphics, charts, or certain types of format styles. Instead, it only requires that these elements be accessible in an alternative format, such as labels or descriptors for screen readers.



Although the CAA does not require Legislative Branch compliance with Section 508, making your Web site 508 compliant

ensures that disabled constituents have easy access to information posted online.

find out if your site is Section 508 compliant, contact your web site manager. A web site, www.section508.gov, has been established to provide detailed information on Section 508 as it is applied to Federal agencies. You may also contact the Office of Compliance if you have questions about Section 508 or Legislative Branch compliance with other disability access rights applied by the CAA.

***www.section508.gov
Has Complete
Information on Section
508 Compliance Issues
and Standards.***

Office of Compliance Releases Report to Congress on the Use of the Office by Covered Employees for 2002

Required by Section 301(h) of the CAA, this report offers a brief overview of the Office of Compliance and provides statistics concerning the contacts and proceedings initiated by covered employees during 2002. In accordance with the CAA's confidentiality requirements, the information provided in this report is of a statistical nature only.

The 2002 Section 301(h) report is available at www.compliance.gov, or you may contact the Office directly for printed copies. The report is also available in alternative formats upon request.

This information does not constitute an official ruling of the Board of Directors and is intended for educational purposes only. For further information, please refer to the Congressional Accountability Act (2 U.S.C 1301 et seq.) and the regulations issued by the Board, or you may contact the Office of Compliance.

The Office of Compliance protects the safety, health, and workplace rights of employees of the Congress and the Legislative Branch. Established by the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995, the Office is an independent and neutral agency which provides an impartial dispute resolution process and educates employees and employing offices about their rights and responsibilities under the Act.



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